

Why did you choose to be a Doctor?

When thinking about what I wanted to do I was looking for something where I could make a difference in peoples lives in a way that involved some kind of personal care, but also involved some science (which I really enjoy). Medicine is also so diverse in where you can end up, which I think was also something that drew me in.

What has been one of the highlights of your career so far?

I've only been working as an intern for a few short months, but already it is a great feeling to be part of a team delivering care to patients. Something that struck me when I started was how little of my medical school final exam knowledge I was using. Rather, my day was a lot of logistics, problem solving, and admin. But at the end of it all, you know that you've contributed to the better health of a person, and that feels really rewarding.



this issue
Dr Jesse Ende

The Scientist, Beehives & Wellbeing

How do you believe NSW Health can do things better for JMOs?

Working conditions for JMOs are tough, and we don't always get the support we need in the workplace from the hospital administration, supervisors, and the way the system is set up, from the government. Of course, in such a large health system it is always going to be difficult to get the best balance for workers, and change comes slowly. I think a change for the better will mean that JMOs have better safeguards for their wellbeing, a more relevant modernised award, more transparency with overtime pay, more certainty in training pathways, and overall an ecosystem that supports us from when we start as JMOs and the whole way through our careers.

Why is being part of a Union important to you?

Being part of a union means that you can be confident someone always has your back. Working in the hospital system is difficult enough, but when you have to navigate all the lingo of contracts, payslips, the award, and everything else, it is great to know that there is always someone who can give you a hand. The other great thing the union does is advocate for the needs of all doctors. I think working in medicine is in some ways quite different from a lot of other jobs, especially when you consider how the workplace and training have developed historically, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't have the same access to good working conditions as all

workers. Personally, ASMOF has helped me out already on a few occasions, and they have always been extremely approachable and helpful.

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If you weren't a Doctor, what would you be doing instead?

I've always liked teaching, which is one of the things I really enjoy about medicine — there is always someone to teach or be taught by. In that vein, if I didn't do medicine, I think I would have become a teacher in some kind of science.

What do you do when you aren't working?

I look after two beehives, which are very fascinating to watch and of course good fun when it's time to harvest some honey. Otherwise, I enjoy cycling and am currently preparing for the Sydney to Wollongong ride in a few months.